



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Gaithersburg Arts Barn Welcomes New Resident Artists Sullivan and Suárez-Valenti

Gaithersburg, MD (November 27, 2019) The Gaithersburg Arts Barn welcomes collage artist Jeanne Sullivan and jewelry designer Maritza Suárez-Valenti to its artist-in-residence program. The two new artists are joining Jack and Jaree Donnelly of Arts Entwine in Studio 102. Meet the artists and watch them work during an open house in their shared studio on Saturday, November 30, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the [Holiday Bazaar](#) at the Arts Barn.

Jeanne Sullivan seeks inspiration for her collages from her travels to her imagination. Her work invites the viewer to discover plays of color contrast, texture, line, and mystery. She enhances her work with a variety of collage techniques, combining paints and other mediums using maps, books, drawings, transfers, stamps, and hand-altered papers, to create unique mixed media collages. Sullivan studied art at the University of Maryland, furthering her studies with classes and workshops in collage and encaustics. She is a member of the Gaithersburg Artists Collective, Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C., Art League of Germantown, Montgomery Art Association, and Yellow Barn Gallery and Studios.

Maritza Suárez-Valenti began Ma-Chi Jewelry Designs as a hobby back in 2008 when she started creating with beads, enjoying the infinity of color combinations and finding the creation of so many designs beyond the imagination. Soon after, she started working with wire, which incorporated the endless possibilities of bending, twisting and having control over the metal. This different style added a new feeling in each piece of jewelry and was the prelude to new and improved techniques in designing. Today, Suárez-Valenti is playing with fire. "There is a beauty in the power of bonding metals with fire that is indescribable," she says. "Both metal and the fire dance along until they become one in the process of creating a beautiful piece of wearable art. I love making jewelry. It has fascinated me how a sheet of metal is transformed into a piece of art. I like to experiment with non-traditional materials as well. When I am working on a piece of jewelry, time flies by and I transport myself into another world that nourishes my soul." Suárez-Valenti is a member of the Gaithersburg Artist Collective and the Art League of Germantown.

"We are so delighted to welcome Jeanne and Maritza into the resident artist studio with us," says Jaree Donnelly of Arts Entwine. "We are already feeling the wonderful new vibrancy in the studio that collaboration with these two ladies brings."

Throughout the year, the four artists can be found in the studio working. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead for their hours. For more information, please contact the Arts Barn at 301-258-6350, e-mail artsbarn@gaithersburgmd.gov or visit the Arts Barn [online](#).

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About the Gaithersburg Arts Barn

Recalling the charm of a bygone era, the [Arts Barn](#) is a beautifully renovated stable that once housed horses on the former Tschiffely estate. Today, the Arts Barn is part of [Arts on the Green](#), the City's home for visual and performing arts. In addition to a 99-seat theater, the Arts Barn offers rotating art exhibits, artists-in-residence studios, a gift shop featuring artist-made items, and an active schedule of visual and performing arts classes, workshops and camps for children and adults.

For more information, call 301-258-6394, find us at www.gaithersburgmd.gov or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) @ArtsOnTheGreen.